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Summary record of the 29th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 17 March 2016, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Bhattarai ..... (Nepal)
Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Ruiz Massieu

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 134: Programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (*continued*)

Revised estimates for the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic related to the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (A/70/7/Add.46, A/70/726 and A/70/726/Corr.1)

1. **Ms. Bartsiotas** (Controller), introducing the revised estimates for the United Nations Monitoring Mechanism for the Syrian Arab Republic for the biennium 2016-2017 (A/70/726 and A/70/726/Corr.1), said that the Monitoring Mechanism had been established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2165 (2014) to monitor cross-border humanitarian operations by the United Nations and partner agencies in delivering aid to people in need in the Syrian Arab Republic.

2. By its resolution 2258 (2015), the Security Council had extended the mandate of the Mechanism until 10 January 2017. As that decision had predated the conclusion of the Committee's deliberations on the programme budget for 2016-2017 by one day, no resources had been included in the initial appropriation.

3. The estimated requirements of $4.3 million for the period of the mandate to 10 January 2017, covering a staffing complement of 43 temporary positions, would represent a charge against the contingency fund for 2016-2017. Pending consideration of the estimates, the initial requirements of the Monitoring Mechanism were being met through a commitment authority of the Secretary-General under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 70/250, on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.

4. **Mr. Ruiz Massieu** (Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/70/7/Add.46), said that the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the resources requested by the Secretary-General, including 43 general temporary assistance positions.

5. Regarding budgetary procedure, as the mandate of the Mechanism was being extended for the second time, the budget requirements could have been anticipated and included in the programme budget for 2016-2017, thereby avoiding a piecemeal approach to the budget process.

The meeting rose at 10.10 a.m.